

REMARKS

Claims 5-39 are pending with claims 5, 10, 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 being independent. Claims 5, 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 have been amended. In particular, claim 5 has been amended to recite "said voltage changer is electrically connected to the second electrode of the EL element via a switch" and "the first electrode of the EL element is electrically connected to a power supply line," and claims 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 have been amended to recite "said voltage changer is electrically connected to the other of the anode and the cathode of said EL element via a switch". Support for these amendments may be found in the application at, for example, FIG. 1 and page 5, line 17 to page 7, line 1. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 5, 7-10, 12, 13-15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-31, 33-37 and 39 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,833) in view of Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,968).

As to claim 5 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because neither Kim, Ikeda, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests connecting a voltage changer to an electrode of an EL element via a switch, where the other electrode of the EL element is connected to a power supply line, as recited in claim 5. While the rejection indicates that element 4 of Kim corresponds to the recited voltage changer, this element is not connected to an electrode of an EL element via a switch, where the other electrode of the EL element is connected to a power supply line.

In addition, Ikeda discloses that a constant current source 24 is connected to a junction between one electrode of the light-emitting element 20 and one electrode of the transistor 22, and that the other electrodes of the light-emitting element and the transistor are connected to a common electrode 33 which may be grounded via a resistor 34 (which the rejection equates with the recited voltage changer). Thus, Ikeda also fails to describe or suggest that a voltage changer is electrically connected to the second electrode of the EL element via a switch.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 5 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Similarly to claim 5, independent claim 10 recites a voltage changer electrically connected to an electrode of an EL element via a switch, where the other electrode of the EL element is connected to a current control thin film transistor, and claims 13, 18, 23, 29 and 34 recite that the anode or cathode of an EL element is connected to the active layer of a thin film transistor, and that the voltage changer is electrically connected to the other of the anode and the cathode. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 5, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and their dependent claims.

Dependent claims 6, 11, 16, 21, 27, 32 and 38 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Ikeda and Poulton (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,323). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Poulton does not remedy the failure of Kim and Ikeda to describe or suggest the subject matter of the independent claims.

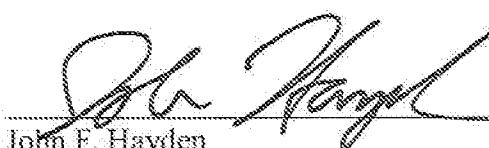
Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$910 for the one month extension of time (\$120) and the request for continued examination (\$790) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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